

From: [Darren Edgar](#)
To: [Rankin, Dennis - Washington, DC](#)
Subject: Transmission Route Comments
Date: Monday, September 21, 2009 12:02:49 PM
Attachments: [Transmission Letter.doc](#)

August 27, 2009

Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc.
www.socotransmission.com

Re: Southern Colorado Transmission Improvements

Dear Project Contact Nicole Korb,

The following letter is in reference to the new transmission route alignment that your company is proposing in the San Luis Valley. As a school district, we are in support of initiatives that increase the reliability and service of energy needs to the residents of our district, valley, and state. Let it also be understood that this correspondence is not meant to relay a message of opposition for electrical and technical services from Tri-State Transmission Association or to discredit the need for increased services to the businesses and residents of the San Luis Valley.

As a school district however, we do have a concern that we feel needs addressed in the planning of the routes for this project. First, we are aware of the proposed routes #28 and #33 which are in a close proximity of our PreK-12 school facility. We feel that in the best interest of the children of our district, we cannot support the erecting of transmission lines within such a close proximity for health and safety reasons. We would ask that Tri-State choose a more appropriate route that is less encroaching on health and well-being of our students and staff.

As stewards of the school district, we feel the following questions need to be addressed before we can support the implementation of the transmission lines and routes. The first question involves the project overview and the proposed corridors. What is the determined distance in feet from the transmission lines to the school facility? Next, what would be the additional cost of placing the transmission lines underground? Also, if the proposed locations remain the same, is Tri-State prepared to educate the residents of Blanca and Fort Garland on safety issues and address the concerns of the health and safety of our students? Another question we have, is will the transmission lines affect the district's use of the internet, radio signals, and phone reception? Finally, how are the transmission lines taxed and how does it compare to the current assessed rates on the land they will be placed on?

L-011-001: Route Refinement > SLV-Calumet (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Route refinement for the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement. The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

L-011-002: Electrical Characteristics (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Electrical characteristics of the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement. The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

L-011-003: Project Alternatives (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. A range of reasonable project alternatives and mitigation measures including the no action alternative will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement. The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

L-011-004: Electrical Characteristics (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Electrical characteristics of the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement. The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

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Sierra Grande School District, ask that you reconsider the proposed routes #28 and #33 that we believe are too close to our school facility. In closing, we would also ask that you please reply to the questions we have indicated in this letter. As we said earlier, we are in support of initiatives that increase the reliability, service, and energy needs of the district, valley, and state, and are not opposed to this project. We cannot however, simply endorse the implementation of a plan that might jeopardize the health and safety of our students.

Please contact us when you have reviewed our concerns and questions. We look forward in playing a part of the route planning process.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

Board of Education
Sierra Grande School District
Board of Education
17523 Hwy 160
Blanca, CO 81123

L-011-005: Socioeconomic Resources (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Potential impacts to social and economic resources from the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.